DC

5

PHILLIPS
ROSSMO
LEISTEN
PLASCENCIA

HARLEY QUINN

15

IS THIS THE END OF HARLEY AND KEVIN?

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RETURN TO THE VISIONARY WORLD OF THE BLOCKBUSTER FILMS!

BATMAN '89

WRITTEN BY SAM HAMM

ART BY JOE QUINONES

A 6-ISSUE SERIES | AUGUST

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"I'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU'VE GOT YOUR PANTIES ALL IN A BUNCH OVER SOME GUY IN A WAY-TOO-TIGHT-IN-THE-CROTCH *BAT* COSTUME?"

I AM BATMAN...

NO GOOD DEED

Part 2

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HARLEY QUINN CREATED BY
PAUL DINI AND **BRUCE TIMM**

...BUT YOU...*YOU* ARE *JUST* A MAN IN A *COSTUME.*

I DIDN'T WANT IT TO COME TO THIS.

"DON'T GET ME WRONG...THE WHOLE *KARATE NINJA* THING IS KINDA COOL.

SAVE THE PLATITUDES ABOUT *PEACEFUL* RESOLUTIONS.

WE *BOTH* KNEW HOW THIS WOULD END.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO--

"AND THE ARMORED CARS WITH LITERAL CANNONS AND LASERS AND STATE-OF-THE-ART TRACKING CAPABILITIES AND ROCKET-FUELED PROPULSION SYSTEMS...

HRAH!

"...THOSE ARE *COOL.*

I DON'T *WANT* TO HURT YOU.

I CAN TELL WHEN YOU'RE LYING, *BATMAN...*

...BECAUSE I *AM* YOU!

"...I MEAN, IF YOU'RE *INTO* THAT KINDA THING."

"BUT DRESSIN' LIKE THE GUY AND...*WHAT?* TRYIN' TO KILL HIM...?

WHAK

EXCEPT... I'M MORE THAN JUST THE *SAME OLD* BATMAN.

I'M SOMETHING NEW...SOMETHING *BETTER* THAN YOU COULD EVER *HOPE* TO BE!

"JUST... LIKE...WHAT WAS THE *PLAN* THERE?

"I'VE HEARD THE WHOLE, *'IMITATION IS A FORM OF FLATTERY'* NONSENSE..."

HUGO STRANGE...

...YOU ARE *NOTHING* LIKE BATMAN.

...BUT CAN WE AGREE THAT MAYBE... ***JUST MAYBE...*** YOU TOOK IT A LITTLE TOO FAR?

*SO, I KNOW HOW THIS **LOOKS.***

IT KINDA SEEMS LIKE A ***DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUE...*** LIKE KIDS WHO LEARN BY IMITATING THE ACTIONS OF ADULTS OR PARENTAL FIGURES...

SUCH A LATENT IMPULSE, THOUGH... *I **WONDER...***

...IS IT A ***SEXUAL*** THING?

NO SHAME IN THAT, HUGO...BUT THERE ***MIGHT*** BE HEALTHIER OUTLETS FOR THAT KIND OF... ***FRUSTRATION.***

*IT **LOOKS** LIKE WE'RE AT THAT PART OF THE HERO'S JOURNEY WHERE THE MAIN CHARACTER SUFFERS A MAJOR **FALL** IN ORDER TO MAKE THE COMING RESOLUTION JUSTIFIED.*

IT LOOKS LIKE HUGO STRANGE, **DERANGED** PSYCHIATRIST, HAS ME LOCKED UP IN HIS NEW ASYLUM THING RIGHT AS I WAS **ABOUT** TO MAKE A DARING RESCUE.

AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO DIG INTO YOUR OWN PAST CO-OPTING A HARLEQUIN AS PART OF THAT WHOLE CLOWN PRINCE THEME...

THAT'S NOT WHY YOU'RE HERE, HARLEY.

OH, GOOD. BECAUSE, SEE, WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE PLAYIN' PSYCHIATRIST WITH PATIENTS AGAINST THEIR WILL...

...I JUST **KNEW** I HAD MY INFO WRONG.

IT WOULD BE LIKE LETTING THE INMATES RUN THE ASYLUM. **LITERALLY.**

THE IDIOMS ARE **CHARMING,** BUT YOU'RE DELAYING THE INEVITABLE.

YOU'RE HERE AS AN EXAMPLE TO THE OTHERS...AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CROSS HUGO STRANGE.

WAIT...DO YOU...DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK I'M **SCARED** OF **YOU?**

THE **BATMAN WANNABE** WITH A BAD CASE OF ROID RAGE AND AN ASTIGMATISM?

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

IT WOULD BE SO EASY IF THAT'S WHAT WAS HAPPENIN' HERE...AND, **BELIEVE ME,** I'M NOT KNOCKIN' TRADITIONAL NARRATIVE CONVENTIONS OR NOTHIN'.

BUT THIS...? THIS IS NOT MY "FALL."

QUIET!

KRASH

YOUR HUMOR IS JUST A ***MASK*** TO DISTRACT FROM WHAT A ***FAILURE*** YOU ARE...

YOU'LL NEVER BE AS ***BAD*** AS THE JOKER...OR AS ***GOOD*** AS BATMAN...

YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A ***MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD IDIOT*** IN A TACKY JESTER OUTFIT.

I MEAN, FOR STARTERS, I MIGHT **NOT** BE THE **HERO**...

HEY... ***HUGO...?***

WHAT?!

IS THIS A BAD TIME TO TELL YA I GOTTA PEE?

HOLD IT.

THAT'S ***NOT*** GONNA HAPPEN. I DRANK AN EXTRA-LARGE CARAMEL LATTE BEFORE BREAKIN' IN HERE...

...THAT WOULD MAKE A ***HERO'S JOURNEY*** A LITTLE AWKWARD, HUH?

AND, **FOR SECONDS,** THIS IS ALL PART OF A CAREFULLY, COMPLETELY CALCULATED, AND VERY WELL-THOUGHT-OUT **MASTER PLAN.**

FINE... **FINE!**

GUARDS!

TAKE HER TO THE BATHROOM, BUT DO **NOT** LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.

YES, SIR.

SO, JUST THE THREE OF US GOIN' TO THE BATHROOM TOGETHER?

ARE YOU BOYS THE KIND WHO LIKE TO WATCH, OR...?

ONE MORE WORD OUT OF YOU AND YOU'LL REGRET IT!

I AM COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY **IN CONTROL.**

YOU'VE GOT **TEN SECONDS.**

IS THAT HOW LONG IT TAKES **YOU** TO USE THE BATHROOM?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT THAT.

OH! SO THIS IS A PARTY? ARE BOTH OF YOU COMIN' IN AT ONCE?

I MEAN...IT'S BEEN A WHILE BUT MR. J USED TO LIKE--

GO, BUT IF YOU TRY **ANYTHING**...I WILL SHOCK YOU UNTIL YOU FORGET YOUR OWN NAME.

RELAX. I **PROMISE** NOT TO MAKE A DARING ESCAPE THROUGH THE SEWAGE PIPES.

AND **THAT** IS WHAT THOSE IN THE STORY BIZ CALL **FORESHADOWING.**

CLOWNS SUCK

FLUSH

BUT FIRST, THE **IRONY** PORTION OF OUR STORY...

THE DOC DID SAY I COULD USE MORE **ROUGHAGE** IN MY DIET...

SHE'S TAKING TOO LONG. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HER GO IN--

WHAT'S GOING ON IN--?

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

$*#€!

CAN YOU CHECK AND MAKE SURE THERE'S NO TOILET PAPER STUCK TO THE BOTTOM OF MY SHOE?

I **HATE** WHEN THAT HAPPENS...SO EMBARRASSING.

WHAK

OOF!

LOOKS LIKE YOU DROPPED SOMETHIN'.

THERE'S NOWHERE FOR YOU TO RUN, YOU STUPID *#€%@.

KRZZZ

AAIIEEE!

"I WILL SHOCK YOU UNTIL YOU FORGET YOUR OWN NAME."

NOW, WHERE DID I JUST HEAR THAT?

KZZZZZZAP

THAT WAS IRONIC *AND* SHOCKING.

IRONY IS A **USEFUL** NARRATIVE TOOL...

...BUT SO IS RESCUING YOUR FRIEND FROM AN EVIL DOCTOR AND RUNNING THE HELL AWAY.

KEVIN! ARE YOU OKAY?!

HUH?

HARLEY?!

YOU'RE OKAY!

...YEAH... I'M... OKAY...

BEEP

I WAS SO WORRIED, KEV.

BUT NOW, WE'VE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE--

WELL, BEFORE HUGO'S NUMBER ONE LACKEY FOUND US WOULD'VE BEEN NICE.

I WAS JUST TELLIN' YOUR BOSS HOW SILLY IT IS TO DRESS AS BATMAN TO MAKE HIMSELF FEEL MORE IMPORTANT.

BUT, IF YOU DRESS UP AS HUGO, WHAT'S THAT SAY ABOUT YOU, LOCKWOOD?

THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO. YOU MAY BE LOOSE IN THE FACILITY, BUT THIS PLACE IS SO SECURE THERE'S NO GETTING OUT...

HOW ABOUT *IN*?

BOOM

WHAT WAS *THAT?*

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT I INVITED A *FRIEND.*

WHAT FRIEND DO *YOU* HAVE?

BOOM

HE'S *BIG* IN THE SEWERS... MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM...

IS THAT--?

YUP.

SOLOMON GRUNDY...

*%€#.

...BORN ON A MONDAY!

AHH!

OOF!

YOU.

HARLEY QUINN'S NEW *LAPDOG*...

YOU KNOW YOU'LL *NEVER* BE ANYTHING MORE THAN A *FOLLOWER*...A *SERVANT.*

HEY, PAL! YOU'RE GONNA--

I GOT THIS ONE, HARLEY...

KRAK

I DON'T WANT TO INTERRUPT THE CATHARSIS, BUT WE HAVE TO GET THE OTHERS.

TAKE THIS KEY CARD. GRUNDY WILL SHOW YOU THE SEWER EXIT AND I'LL MEET YOU THERE.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? AND HOW... HOW DID YOU GUYS...?

I'LL EXPLAIN SOON. I'LL MEET YOU BOYS IN THE BASEMENT.

"I'VE GOT TO GET MY BAT BACK."

YOU LET HER GET AWAY?!

YOU PROMISED THIS PLACE HAD THE BEST SECURITY.

IT *DOES.*

THERE'S NO WAY *HARLEY QUINN* DID THIS ON HER OWN...

SHE MUST HAVE HAD HELP.

I DON'T *CARE* IF SHE HAD HELP...

...I *CARE* THAT YOU'VE *RUINED* EVERY-THING I PAID YOU TO DO.

THIS IS... AN *ANNOYANCE*, CERTAINLY, BUT HARLEY IS ALREADY *TOO LATE*. THE CLOWNS HAVE ALL BEEN GIVEN THE INJECTIONS ALREADY.

I WANT THE POWER BACK ON, AND I WANT TO KNOW THAT MY ASSETS ARE SAFE.

FINE... I'LL...I'LL SEE TO IT *MYSELF*.

GOOD...

"...IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO TAKE OVER AN ***ENTIRE CITY*** WITHOUT AN ARMY."

YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE LOCKED YOUR OFFICE DOOR, BIG GUY...

...OTHERWISE SOMEONE MIGHT JUST WALK RIGHT IN HERE AND FIND YOUR SUPER ***STALKERY*** REPLICAS OF--

NO WAY...

IS THAT A GRUNDY ***PLUSHIE?!***

THIS IS THE CUTEST THING I'VE ***EVER*** SEEN. CREEPY THAT HUGO HAS THIS...BUT STILL ***CUTE.***

I THINK I'LL JUST... YEAH, THIS ONE'S ***MINE*** NOW.

BEEP

THIS *ALWAYS* HAPPENS...YOU COME TO THE STORE FOR ONE THING, AND FIND ALL KINDS OF STUFF YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED.

I *ALMOST* FORGOT I CAME HERE FOR MY BAT.

FINALLY! THERE'S MY GIRL.

I SHOULD STOP OPENING ALL THESE DOORS BUT...OKAY, JUST *ONE* MORE...

AND WHAT'S BEHIND DOOR NUMBER THREE...?

OF COURSE HE HAS A SECRET STASH OF CLOWN COSTUMES. AT LEAST *SURPRISE* ME...

THIS IS STARTIN' TO FEEL A LITTLE *PREDICTABLY* WEIRD.

HE STILL HAS THIS?!

MAYBE IT IS A SEX THING AFTER ALL.

YOU JUST COULDN'T HELP YOUR-SELF...

...ALWAYS THINKING YOU'RE SMARTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE...

...POKING YOUR NOSE WHERE IT ***DOESN'T*** BELONG...

PSYCHO-ANALYZIN' TIME'S OVER, PAL.

OH, AND THE CLOWNS AND YOUR LITTLE S.A.F.E. PROGRAM?

CONSIDER IT ***OFFICIALLY*** MY BUSINESS.

UNFF!

WHAK

NO!

FACE IT, HUGO...

DRESSIN' AS SOMEONE IMPORTANT DOES NOT MAKE *YOU* IMPORTANT.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA, QUINN! *NO* IDEA WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF!

NO... I CAN *SEE* WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF, HUGO...

...A MEDIOCRE COSPLAY. *AT BEST.*

YOU'RE NOT EVEN WORTH *MY* TIME.

YOU *WILL* BE SORRY! ONCE YOU SEE WHAT I HAVE DONE...

*AND TO THINK PEOPLE HAVE ACCUSED **ME** OF BEIN' DRAMATIC.*

GOTHAM *WILL* BE MINE!

YOU'LL *ALL* SEE!

THE THING ABOUT A GOOD STORY, OR REALLY **ANY** STORY, IS THAT THERE ARE SO MANY MOVIN' PARTS.

THE INTRODUCTION, THE RISING ACTION, THE CLIMAX...

OOF!

RAHHH!

THIS WAY!

...AND WHO DOESN'T LOVE A GOOD **CLIMAX?**

GET BACK HERE!

I'VE ALREADY ELECTROCUTED TWO OF YOUR FRIENDS, BUT I HAVEN'T ***CONCUSSED*** ANYONE TODAY.

KRAK

YAHTZEE!

BUT WHAT MAKES A STORY **REALLY** INTERESTIN' ARE THE CHARACTERS.

GOOD WORK, KEV.

GLAD YOU FOUND YOUR BAT.

THE **RAG TAG** GROUP OF REBELS TAKIN' OUT THE BIG BAD EVIL AGAINST ALL ODDS...

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE MORE **CANNON FODDER** SHOWS UP!

SERIOUSLY... AFTER TODAY I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO TAKE A BREAK FROM GOTHAM'S SEWAGE SYSTEM...

HARLEY QUINN!

YOU SAVED US!

SPLSH

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU, HARLEY. YOU SAVED OUR LIVES.

RRRRR.

AND... **GRUNDY.** WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU **AND** GRUNDY.

...IT'S A TALE AS OLD AS TIME.

BUT, IF THERE'S ANYTHIN' I'VE LEARNED FROM THAT ACCLAIMED CINEMATIC UNIVERSE ***THE SPEEDY AND THE PERTURBED...***

...OR WHATEVER IT'S CALLED...

DOES THIS MEAN THE PLAN IS OFF?

I ALREADY TOLD YOU...THE PLAN WILL ***STILL*** WORK.

HARLEY QUINN MAY THINK SHE'S WON, BUT SHE HAS NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE REALLY PLANNING.

IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER WEEK TO GET IN OUR NEW SUPPLY FROM ALLEY-TOWN.

NOW IT'S ***HARLEY QUINN*** FREEING OUR PRISONERS. YOU ***SAID*** SHE WAS STUPID.

I HEARD SHE KICKED YOUR BUTT, TOO.

THAT'S ***NOT*** WHAT HAPPENED, ELI. I TOLD YOU--

TSK, TSK...THAT'S NOT MY NAME, ***HUGO.*** I TOLD YOU...

...YOU LEAVE THE AUDIENCE WANTIN' MORE.

...CALL ME KEEPSAKE.

THAT'S CALLED A CLIFFHANGER.

Department of Extranormal Operations

Director Bones

Multiversal mysteries to be solved

1. Why have the Blue & Gold dynamic duo reunited?

2. Where in the Multiverse is Barry Allen?

3. Why is Amanda Waller targeting young metahumans?

4. What mystery in the Multiverse has President Superman uncovered?

5. Who is the world's greatest fighter?

6. Is Gotham City big enough for two Dark Knights?

-MULTIVERSAL MONITORS-

-EARTHS IN JEOPARDY-

DC INFINITE FRONTIER

DISCOVER THE ANSWERS HERE!

- AQUAMAN: THE BECOMING
- BATMAN
- BATMAN: FEAR STATE ALPHA
- BLACK MANTA
- BLUE & GOLD
- CATWOMAN
- GREEN LANTERN
- I AM BATMAN
- INFINITE FRONTIER
- JUSTICE LEAGUE
- NIGHTWING
- ROBIN
- SHAZAM!
- SUICIDE SQUAD
- SUPERMAN & THE AUTHORITY
- SUPERMAN: SON OF KAL-EL
- TASK FORCE Z
- TEEN TITANS ACADEMY
- THE FLASH
- THE SWAMP THING
- WONDER WOMAN

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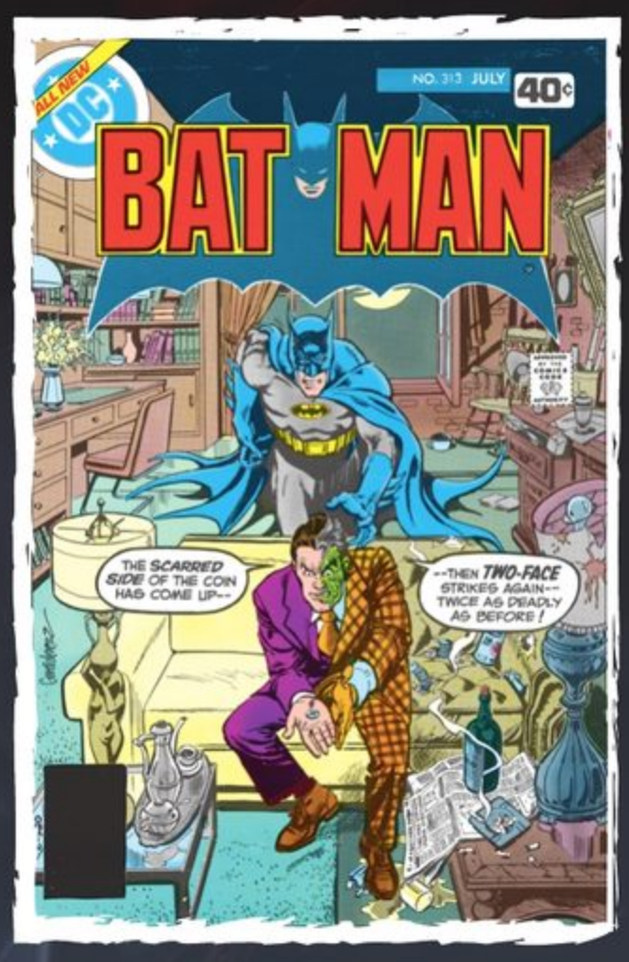
DC INFINITE FRONTIER

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE LIMITLESS!

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

I AM BATMAN

Readers met Tim "Jace" Fox earlier this year as the Dark Knight of *Future State: The Next Batman*—but it's a long path to take on that mantle. The next step in Jace's heroic journey starts in *I Am Batman* #0 from writer John Ridley, architect of the Next Batman's saga, and artist Travel Foreman. Need to catch up on the story thus far? We've got you covered.



ORIGINS

Tim Fox debuted as the wayward son of Lucius Fox back in 1979's *Batman* #313—but the character only ever made a handful of appearances. He resurfaced last year with a conspicuous mention in a story from the *Batman: The Joker War Zone* one-shot, before his proper reappearance in *Batman* #101.

FUTURE STATE: THE NEXT BATMAN

Future State provided a glimpse at multiple possible timelines of the DC Universe, including a grim near-future Gotham, with the city under the thumb of private law enforcement group the Magistrate and masked crime-fighters outlawed. One of the few heroes left to stand up for the city is Jace—as the Batman of a new era.

I AM BATMAN

In the new series *I Am Batman*, it's time for the Batman of the future to step into the present—as Jace uses Batman armor and tech found in Bruce Wayne's old base of operations, the Hibernaculum, to protect Alleytown against the oppressive forces of the Magistrate. The age of a new Dark Knight starts now!

THE NEXT BATMAN: SECOND SON

Jace's present-day adventure starts in *The Next Batman: Second Son*, which opens with him as a covert operative on a mission in Vietnam before heading back to Gotham—and encountering Katana and his brother, Luke, (better known as Batwing) on his way to embracing his heroic destiny.

DON'T MISS *I AM BATMAN* #0, ON SALE IN AUGUST!

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ZONE